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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 380

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend M. Lee Smith Publishers  
for 25 years of laudable service to the people of  
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary institutions who through their abiding commitment to excellence, are credits to this state; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five years ago, M. Lee Smith, a novice attorney with a deep interest in politics and the law, started a publishing company that has since grown, from a single weekly update, to over 125 subscription newsletters, guidebooks, and electronic research services for the business and professional communities; and

WHEREAS, the chairman and publisher at M. Lee Smith Publishers, M. Lee Smith earned his BA and JD degrees from Vanderbilt University, prior to having clerked for Federal Judge William E. Miller and having served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Howard Baker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith formerly served as a political analyst for WTVF-TV in Nashville and wrote a weekly column on Tennessee politics which was carried in about forty Tennessee newspapers; and

WHEREAS, he was also involved in Winfield Dunn's successful bid for Governor of Tennessee and worked for four years as the Governor's Executive Assistant, after which in 1975, he turned his interest in politics and the law to publishing, thus founding M. Lee Smith Publishers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's first subscription newsletter was *The Tennessee Journal*, a weekly "insiders guide" to Tennessee government, politics, and business; and

WHEREAS, following such rapid success, Mr. Smith decided to compile a weekly summary of the Tennessee appellate court decisions in the *Tennessee Attorneys Memo*, which found instantaneous success in Tennessee's legal community; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, M. Lee Smith Publishers acquired a printing operation to handle the expanding needs of its own publishing ventures and soon began servicing the newsletter printing and mailing needs of business and nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, with much insight into the increasing impact that state legislatures and courts had and would have on business law and the daily operations of businesses, Mr. Smith decided in the mid-nineteen eighties to help corporate executives comply with the rapid changes of state law. He teamed up with the nation's most prestigious law firms, and together, they created state-specific subscription newsletters, manuals, guidebooks, and electronic products. For each publication, the law firm provides the editorial component while M. Lee Smith Publishers executes the layout, printing, mailing, marketing, and all related business functions; and

WHEREAS, M. Lee Smith Publishers acquired Hessey Printing in 1996 and moved from their downtown Nashville office to a new 42,000-square-foot publishing, printing, and mailing facility in Brentwood into their new state-of-the-art building that was custom designed to meet expanding equipment and workforce needs. The relocation allowed the company to increase its availability of offering its desktop publishing, printing, and mailing services to other organizations, especially other newsletter publishing companies; and

WHEREAS, M. Lee Smith Publishers' reader base is currently over 54,000 human resource managers, environmental compliance professionals, attorneys, health care executives, and law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, M. Lee Smith Publishers' publications are an integral part of more than 80 law firms' marketing strategies; and with revenues increasing more than five-fold in the last ten years, the outlook for M. Lee Smith Publishers remains positive as they look forward to 25 more years of successful publishing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend M. Lee Smith Publishing on their 25th Anniversary, and extend to Mr. Smith and everyone affiliated with M. Lee Smith Publishing our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.